



## Francie and Lyle throw big party for Keith Family

**Kristy and Seamus entertained with song and poetry composed by Francie and Twins**

On September 16<sup>th</sup> Francie and Lyle opened up their home for a big party to honor and introduce the Keith family and welcome them into the Riel family, Trouble Makers and Innocent Bystanders. Francie and Lyle provided a lavish spread of food and drinks, enjoyed by all. A special treat was the wine provided by the Keiths. Tom and his son-in-law recently opened a small winery in Sonoma, specializing in Merlot wine, and everyone was impressed by its quality. After the food was consumed we all assembled at the outdoor fireplace for the formal program, as organized by Francie. Lots of pictures were taken, and in addition we obtained the lyrics to the special song capably performed by the RFNL Choir. A present was given to the happy couple, and Francie, RFNL poet laureate, then read her welcoming poem. It was a great party, and we all enjoyed meeting Seamus' family.

### **The Kristy and Seamus Engagement Song September 16, 2006**

Give our regards to Seamus  
For he's getting married soon.  
Tell all the girls in Sonoma County,  
That he'll be wed past June...  
Whisper that he will now have,  
A million relatives to share  
Give my regards to ole Seamus  
And tell him please do not despair!

Give our regards to Kristy  
For she's marrying Seamus, too.  
She's gonna give up "Gill-ing-ham"  
And join the Keiths, it's all so true.  
Whisper how she did meet him,  
And then a boyfriend she soon had,  
Give my regards to ole Kristy  
We think her fiancé's really rad.

Give our regards to the Keiths  
For they're gaining now our little lass.  
Tell all the friends, especially Jen, Sam, and Pete,  
That they will need new roommates fast.  
Whisper of how she can't cook,  
But triathlons she's trained to run.  
Give my regards to all the Keiths  
I hope that they've enjoyed our fun!

### **The Kristy and Seamus Engagement Poem September 16, 2006**

Gather around , pull up a chair  
I have a few words, I'd most like to share

Tonight we celebrate a beginning of sorts  
That started with a function involving a sport

To a college rugby party, Kristy would go  
With a couple of friends, she happened to know

There she met Seamus, and in just a short while  
Became enamored of his cute face, and spectacular smile

Time flies by with great fun and no strife  
And on a dock in Lake Tahoe, he proposes a new life.

Kristy says yes and that brings us here  
With all of our families, and everyone near and dear.

But before we can let this engagement commence  
We feel we must warn Seamus of just what he gets

Not only our Kristy, will become your wife  
But add on 38, more people to your life!

You may not know it but you are being checked out  
By the dreaded committee that carries much clout.

For soon your induction will most likely be considered  
By those "innocent Bystanders", with which this family is littered.

In our younger years, when we could still run and play  
Family get togethers were much different than they are today.

The family would split up with two teams on each side  
Riel runners against the in laws, we always won, though they tried.  
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# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

October, 2006

Our family is known to be a little over bearing  
And in winning these games, there wasn't much sharing.

So the in-laws conceded, we were too crazy to fight  
And claimed their innocence of our family and strife

They became the innocent bystanders, believe it or not  
By simply claiming, "It isn't our fault!"

And so over the years, there has been quite the contention  
Over who is the victor and who is dishonorably mentioned.

As time marches on, and the children arrive  
The family parties were more gentle and kind,

But as soon as the kids were bigger and much more able  
The competitions soon, returned to the table

Teams were drawn up and the games did begin  
Football or soccer, each side had to win.

Then we got older and a new time came to the table  
It was the "kids" against the team of all parents still able.

So then the innocent bystanders drew in their lines  
To compete in more things, then just sports of a kind.

To protect themselves from the ways and the wiles  
Of the "troublemakers" known as the riels

Rules were drawn up, and members aligned  
Don't break the bylaws or surely you'll be fined

So to this time this group claims much power  
Over the family events and the traditions of the hour

So today we come to a new point in our lives  
Where once again a new phase has arrived

A whole new team of players to join in the ranks  
With a family quite full of those most fond of pranks

So Seamus be ready for a family most crazy  
Always ready to compete, we've never been called lazy

Full of camaraderie and always some humor  
To laugh at the expense anyone over a rumor

To take on the challenge of the next generation  
In a family full of great expectations

We look to this new time as just the beginning  
Of a family too large to be here at one sitting

So what shall we call this new team of players  
Who are soon to arrive in layer upon layer

They are not just "troublemakers" as my side has been named  
Nor innocent bystanders, you don't want that fame

So I say we go for a new name that fits  
Innocent troublemakers has got to be it.

So today I have given you a little of a warning  
Of what to expect at all holidays night and morning

And if you still want to step over that line  
We'll welcome and love you, your one of our kind

We thank Kristy for bringing such a great guy to our home  
And can't wait till the day we can claim you as our own.

So let's raise our glasses ways up to the sky  
And welcome the joining of this girl and this guy



Jason Erin Courtney Kristy Seamus Jamie Tom



Listy Bob Kristy Seamus Jamie Tom  
Edith Frank



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Catch the News

October, 2006

## Richard, JJ celebrate birthdays

On September 26 we enjoyed a double birthday celebration. On September 29<sup>th</sup> Richard became 59 year old, and on September 1<sup>st</sup> JJ turned 16. We took this occasion to dine out at the Outback Steakhouse, and as usual enjoyed great food and a pleasant evening of conversation. Congratulations to Rich and JJ, and many more happy ones!



## Family health update

Most of the time the Family seems to enjoy reasonably good health. However, recently that has not been the case. Fortunately, no serious problems have arisen, but some nagging problems have caused some concern. We have the following from **Margaret**.

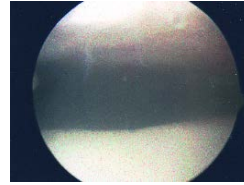
Hi all,

Some of you know that I developed Ptergiums on both eyes. This is a condition often found in people who live near the equator, who work outdoors and who are male, So I am not sure how I got picked. Oh well. I have found some information on Ptergium which I share as a reminder to all of you to wear sunglasses. Eyes need protection from the sun as well as skin. Ask Brett who I think also had this same problem.

### PTERYGIUM AND PINGUECULA

A pingueculum is an elevated mass of thickened yellow tissue typically on the nasal side of the eye, commonly seen in dry, dusty and windy environments. A pterygium is a triangular shaped lesion that differs from a pingueculum in that it extends over the cornea, or colored portion of the eye. Pterygium will often become larger over time, sometimes resulting in diminished vision, particularly in younger patients (that's me!!!!). Both pterygium and pinguecula can become inflamed and irritated and although they seem similar, pinguecula rarely progress into pterygium.

In the last RFNL we mentioned that **Ed** had eye surgery recently. We are happy to report that he has made a complete recovery, and sees better than ever. **Bruce** had a



more serious surgical procedure, involving knee surgery. This x-ray picture shows his knee joint, and the dark mass reveals unwanted growth due to arthritis. The operation involved shaving off the unwanted growths, thus

resulting in freedom from the pain during walking.

**Robert** was another victim of the bad luck group. He was out on a recent Sunday morning running with Listy and friends when he was stung by a wasp. He thought nothing about it until about a half hour later, when he started feeling strange, and had difficulty breathing. His running pals had left him behind, so he rushed home. Karla took him to the hospital emergency room, where he got a shot to counter the allergic reaction. He's OK now but has to be on the lookout for stinging insects in the future. **Grandma** and Grampa were playing golf a few weeks ago, and went on opposite sides of a green to get to the next tee. On her side there was a steep downgrade, and her cart began to roll down hill. While trying to stop it she tripped and fell. She landed face down, but luckily she was not severely injured. She had a cut on the finger and it was bent backward. We went to the urgent care facility, and the doctor decided that nothing was broken, and her finger was only sprained. Perhaps the most scary incident involved **David**, who was with Listy and Bob returning from a visit to the Keith's in Sanoma. They were heading to the Oakland airport when David suddenly became to feel unwell. His fingers were partially bent and would not straighten out. They called for an ambulance that took him to a hospital emergency room. He felt better after a while, and they caught a late flight back to San Diego. David is at his apartment, and having seen his doctor is waiting for some test results. According to Bob his condition is not serious. The present opinion is that it is a nerve problem, and it can be corrected. We will keep you informed in the future.

## Liz tours Eastern Europe

Recently we received the following report from Liz.

This past August I finally had my dream trip become a reality. On August 24 I left with seven other educators on a trip to Eastern Europe. My grandparents were born in Poland, but because of the Iron Curtain of communism relatives were afraid to visit or be visited. We eventually lost contact with our relatives in Europe, so this was about a pilgrimage.

We visited Budapest, Hungary, toured the Parliament

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building, Margaret Island on the Danube, and the Gellert Baths.

We rode to Vienna, where we saw a back-stage tour of the Vienna Opera House, the Schonbrunn Palace and enjoyed a Mozart concert in the Orangeirre.

I took a half day trip on my own to Bratislava, Slovakia to “touch the ground” for my boss and a teacher friend of mine, both of whom had relatives who left their homeland about the same time my family did and were also never able to return.

I returned to Vienna via the Danube on a Hovercraft that was a spotless two months old. We avoided the current by riding above it.

Then it was on to Prague, in the Czech Republic, one of the most popular and charming of all of the cities. The Prague Castle is one thousand years old and has layers of amazing stories. We strolled over the beautiful Charles Bridge in the rain – it wasn’t so crowded then- and marveled at the Old Town Astronomical Clock.

From Prague it was on to my most awaited country, Poland. We went to Krakow, the original capital city since 1038. It was also the city of our beloved Pope, John Paul, and memorials to him were especially nice to see. We took a side trip to Czestochowa (Bright Mountain) a monastery where the famous Lady of Gestohowa icon is displayed. She is also known as the “Black Madonna”.

Our final city in Poland was the capital, Warsaw. The Old Town was amazing to see because this 14<sup>th</sup> Century treasure had been bombed to oblivion and then reconstructed faithfully, according to 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings.

After all of this Berlin was truly just a blur, but I still enjoyed touring the wall at Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg gate, Potsdam, and the San Ssouci Palace.

Thanks, Liz, for this interesting report. We also have pictures, as follows.



Liz in Prague



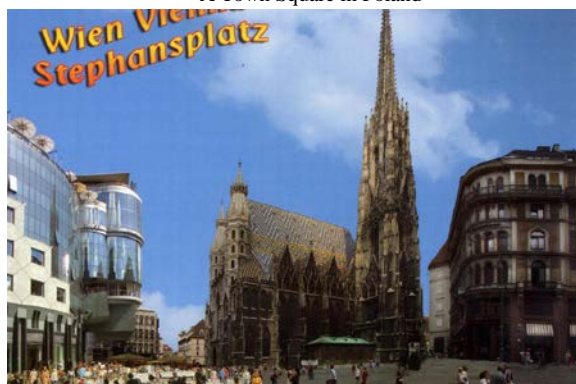
Cecilien Palace, Potsdam, where Truman, Churchill and Stalin met, 1945



Parliament building in Budapest, Hungary



A Town Square in Poland



St. Stevens Cathedral, Vienna, Austria